1   **1.** A method comprising:

2   routing a set-up message to a plurality of nodes in a transport network, wherein said set-up

3 message reserves network resources for a plurality of traffic paths through said transport network as

4 said set-up message visits each of said plurality of nodes; and

5   routing said set-up message to said plurality of nodes in said transport network, wherein said

6 set-up message provisions network resources for said plurality of traffic paths through said transport

7 network as said set-up message revisits each of said plurality of nodes.

1   **2.** The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of traffic paths is a working

2 path in a SONET network and wherein at least one of said plurality of traffic paths is a protection path

3 for said working path.

1   **3.** The method of claim 1 wherein said set-up message revisits each of said plurality of nodes

2 in the reverse order in which said set-up message visits each of said plurality of nodes.

1   **4.** The method of claim 1 wherein said transport network is a mesh network.

1   **5.** The method of claim 1 wherein said transport network is a ring network.